



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 192

LCO No. 1282

01282_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING FINALIZING ADOPTIONS BY THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR JUVENILE MATTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2012*) (a) In any case where the
2 termination of parental rights concerning a child or children was filed
3 in the Superior Court under section 17a-112 of the general statutes, or
4 transferred to the Superior Court from the Court of Probate under
5 section 45a-715 of the general statutes, a petition for adoption may be
6 filed by the Department of Children and Families following the
7 expiration of any appeal or appeal period, in the Superior Court that
8 granted the termination of parental rights.

9 (b) All social studies, psychological reports, and court documents
10 previously filed in the termination of parental rights proceeding shall
11 be available to the court, subject to the rules of evidence, for review
12 and consideration in acting upon the petition for adoption of such
13 child or children. The court shall, to the extent possible, protect the
14 confidentiality of the biological parents, unless such information has
15 been previously disclosed.

16 (c) The Department of Children and Families shall prepare and
 17 submit with the petition for adoption a new social study regarding the
 18 proposed adoption, which shall include, but not be limited to,
 19 information on the child or children's present welfare, medical
 20 condition, educational history and special needs, if any. The study
 21 shall contain information concerning the proposed adoptive family.
 22 All studies and reports filed with or subsequent to the filing of the
 23 petition for adoption shall be available to the family with whom the
 24 child or children have been placed with prior to adoption.

25 (d) Upon receipt of the petition and the adoption social study, the
 26 court shall set a time and date for a hearing and shall give reasonable
 27 notice to the Department of Children and Families, the family with
 28 whom the child or children have been placed with prior to adoption,
 29 the child or children, if over twelve years of age, and any such other
 30 parties, as the court may require.

31 (e) Prior to acting on the petition, the court may continue the matter
 32 for further investigation, issue orders of notice or take other action. At
 33 the hearing, if the court is satisfied that the adoption is in the best
 34 interests of the child or children, the court shall enter a decree
 35 approving the adoption.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To decrease the length of time between the termination of parental rights and adoption by allowing a petition for adoption to be filed in the Superior Court that granted the termination.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]